

1938.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Urban District of Petersfield
FOR THE
Year ending 31st December, 1938.

PETERSFIELD :
W. W. CHILDS LTD., HIGH STREET.

1939

PETERSFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TOWN HALL,
PETERSFIELD.

June, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Petersfield Urban District Council.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Work of the Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

As will be seen from the Vital Statistics, the Petersfield figures still compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

I am indebted to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for their excellent co-operation in the work of the Department during the year and for their help in the preparation of this report.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,931
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	...				6,038
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	1,770
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£55,099
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£220

Social conditions :—

Petersfield is a residential town, and a shopping centre for a large area. A cattle market is held once a fortnight. The Council possesses fine open spaces for the recreation of the inhabitants and visitors.

The surrounding Down country, and the absence of industrialisation of the district itself, do much to further the healthy conditions of life already enjoyed by residents and holiday makers alike.

Vital Statistics during 1938.

LIVE BIRTHS—			TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	65	33	32
Illegitimate	...	...	4	2	2
Still-births	...	...	2	0	2
Deaths	...	...	69	31	38
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					11.43
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					28.17
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : Crude 11.43 ; Adjusted	...	...			8.80
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—					
			Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total	(live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	...	Nil	—		
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	1	14.08	
Total	...	...	1	14.08	

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	43.48
All infants per 1,000 live births (England & Wales)		53.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		46.15
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	... ..	Nil
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population		15.10
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population		11.60

Causes of Death.

Headings and sequence of Registrar-General's Returns

			MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	—	—	—
2	Measles	... ..	—	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	... ..	—	—	—
4	Whooping cough	... ..	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	... ..	1	—	1
6	Influenza	... ..	—	1	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica	... ..	—	1	1
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	... ..	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis respiratory system		2	2	4
10	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	1	1
11	Syphilis	... ..	—	—	—
12	G.P. 2, Tabes, etc.	... ..	—	—	—
13	Cancer	... ..	6	3	9
14	Diabetes	... ..	—	—	—
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	1	4	5
16	Heart Disease	... ..	8	8	16
17	Aneurysm	... ..	—	—	—
18	Other Circulatory diseases	...	—	6	6
19	Bronchitis	... ..	—	1	1
20	Pneumonia—all forms	...	4	1	5
21	Other Respiratory diseases	...	1	—	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	... ..	—	—	—
23	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	... ..	—	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	1	—	1
26	Other Liver diseases	...	—	—	—

Causes of Death *(continued)*.

				MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
27	Other Digestive diseases	...	—	—	—	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	—	—	2	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
30	Other Puerperal diseases	...	—	—	1	1
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	2	1	3
32	Senility	...	...	—	—	—
33	Suicide	...	...	—	—	—
34	Other forms of violence	...	—	—	2	2
35	Other defined diseases (including Small-pox, Poliomyelitis and encephalitis)	...	...	5	3	8
36	Ill-defined or not known	...	—	—	1	1
37	Diarrhoea (two years and over)	...	—	—	—	—
	TOTALS	...	...	31	38	69
				—	—	—

Local conditions of occupation or environment do not appear to have a prejudicial effect on the health of the townspeople.

Section B.—General Provision of Health Service for the Area.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)—

W. S. SLATER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—

H. LONGBOTTOM, M.I.M. & C.E., F.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector—

R. F. SAUNDERS, CERT. S.I.B., Certificated Meat Inspector.

The Hampshire County Council has officers discharging duties in the area, including the Assistant County Medical Officer, Dental Surgeon, Inspector for Food and Drugs, and Health Visitors.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Hampshire County Council provide all facilities for the chemical and bacteriological examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs, at their laboratory at Winchester.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital for infectious cases. For non-infectious and accident cases two motor ambulances are provided and maintained by the Petersfield Ambulance Committee. They are housed at the Council's depot in Heath Road and the service generally has proved adequate during the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

A District Nurse, who also acts as midwife, practices in the area. For infectious cases the Health Visitors of the County Council are available and carry out regular visiting.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

A local committee of voluntary helpers is responsible for this popular centre which does much good work in the district. The Clinic meets on Wednesdays at Ramshill, has a Medical Officer in attendance, and is well attended. The Centre is supported mainly by voluntary subscriptions, so that relief can be given in the form of extra nourishment, hospital or convalescent home treatment, in necessitous and deserving cases. "Home helps" for mothers during confinement and illness is also another most useful service provided by this Centre.

The local District Council and the County Council give grants in aid.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at Ramshill.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Held Fridays at 2 p.m. weekly. Surgeon's day 1st Friday at 2 p.m., alternate months at Havant, under the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Held on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of every month at Havant, under the County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Treatment is available at Portsmouth.

HOSPITALS.

The Isolation Hospital is under the control of the Petersfield Isolation Hospital Committee. The accommodation has proved adequate during the year for cases from the Urban and Rural Districts, though the provision of cubicles or side-wards would help considerably in the general management of this Hospital. An efficient steam disinfecter is available for the sterilisation of articles from infected homes.

For medical, surgical and maternity cases, the Petersfield Hospital of 32 beds, maintained on a voluntary basis, meets the requirements of the area.

SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

The County Council have made arrangements for beds in other hospitals for the following medical services, viz., Maternity Orthopaedic, Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

The County Council provide arrangements for removal of cases to a hospital at Winchester.

SANATORIA.

Sanatoria for Tuberculosis patients are provided by the County Council at Bishopstoke and Chandlers Ford.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children and Mental Defectives.

The County Council is the Local Authority.

The Petersfield Public Assistance Institution has accommodation for 54 patients: 25 men, 27 women, and 2 beds for maternity cases.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There is one situated in the district which is registered with, and inspected by, the County Authority.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The County Authority arranges for the regular inspection of boarded-out children and necessary returns of new cases.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1.—(i) *Water*.—The three sources of supply were satisfactory in quality and quantity. Each source was sampled at least once a month for bacteriological examination. Water mains were extended to the Oaklands Road and Bell Hill building estates.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—No important extensions were made. A flow recorder was installed at the Sewage Disposal Works, and daily records of the flow of sewage are being kept.

2.—*Rivers and Streams*.—No action was necessary to check pollution of rivers or streams.

3.—(i) *Closet Accommodation*.—There are no closets on the conservancy system remaining in populous and closely-built centres.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—No alterations or extensions have been made to the public cleansing service.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.

(a) No. of inspections made—

(1) Housing	...	...	...	...	875
(2) Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	137
(3) Drain testing	82
(4) Slaughterhouses, Shops and Stalls	347
(5) Miscellaneous	563

TOTAL	2,004
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(b) No. of notices served—

(1) Informal	147
(2) Formal	18

(c) No. of notices complied with—

(1) Informal	...	...	...	...	104
(2) Formal	...	...	...	...	7

(iv) *Shops and Offices*.—No action was found to be necessary under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, or with regard to offices under the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) *Camping Sites*—

(1) No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes	5
(2) No. of camping sites in respect of which licences were issued by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	4
(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938	27

(vi) *Smoke Abatement*.—In the early part of the year, nuisance was caused by dense smoke from a brickworks chimney-stack. The owner was approached, and as a result of a change of coal, and careful attention to stoking, the nuisance was abated.

(vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—There are no public swimming baths in the district. Churcher's College has a privately-owned bath which, during the year, was not open to the public.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs*—

(1) No. of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council houses	3
(b) Other houses	Nil

No of houses disinfested :—

(a) Council houses	3
(b) Other houses	Nil

(2) “Zaldecide” was used for the work of disinfestation of the houses.

(3) No examination is made to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

(4) The work of disinfestation was carried out by the Council's staff.

(5) At the time of disinfestation the tenants of the three Council houses mentioned above were given advice on the prevention of re-infestation. Follow-up visits were made, and no re-infestation occurred.

4.—*Schools*.—All the schools in the district, which are under the control of the Hampshire County Council, obtain water from the public supply. Stroud School is the only one without main drainage.

5.—Factories, etc.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	18	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	45	Nil	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	62	Nil	Nil
Total	125	Nil	Nil

2.—Defects Found : One defect was found and remedied.

Section D.—Housing.

Building development by private enterprise is still very active in the district.

Number of new houses completed during the year ...	35
Number of houses provided by the Local Authority	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	146
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	146
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	146
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	146
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	133

2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	96
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1935.—Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	14
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	14
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	105
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply :*

Number of	Retail Purveyors	13
„ „	Wholesale Dealers	1
„ „	Cow-keepers	18
„ „	Cows kept—approximately	400
„ „	licensed producers of “Tuberculin Tested” milk	Nil
„ „	licensed producers of “ Accredited ” milk	3
„ „	licensed producers of “Pasteurised” milk	1
„ „	licensed retailers of “Pasteurised” milk	3
„ „	inspections made of dairies and cow-sheds	137
„ „	samples of “ Pasteurised ” milk taken for analysis (Phosphatase and B Coli tests)	3
„ „	samples which complied with the regulations	3
„ „	samples of raw milk taken for analysis (baeterial count, reductase and B coli tests)	18

No samples were taken for examination for tuberele bacilli in view of the Hampshire County Council's new scheme for the regular veterinary inspection of all herds.

Conditions at the farms and dairies are generally satisfactory. No special action has been necessary under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

All elementary schools in the district are supplied with pasteurised milk, pasteurised and bottled under hygienic conditions at the wholesale dairy of South-Eastern Farmers, Ltd.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*

All slaughterhouses, shops, stalls, etc., are inspected regularly.

Number of inspections for this purpose ... 347

Meat Inspection.—Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approximately)	82	Nil	66	708	704
Number inspected	79	Nil	64	698	699
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Whole carcases condemned...					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	31*	Nil	Nil	19	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	39.24	Nil	Nil	2.72	1.28
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned...	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	7	Nil	1	Nil	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.86	Nil	1.56	Nil	6.86

*Of this number, 26 were affected with flukes, and the livers only, or parts of the livers, condemned. Generally, the cattle affected were otherwise in excellent condition.

Weight of meat condemned and destroyed approxi-
mately 1 ton, 96lbs.

Number of private slaughter-houses in the
district 6

There is no meat-marking scheme in force.

(c) *Adulteration.* **Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 1928.**

Twenty-two samples, one of which was found to be unsatisfactory, were taken in the Urban District by the Hampshire County Council.

Article of food.				Genuine			Unsatisfactory.	
Article of food.				Genuine			Unsatisfactory.	
Arrowroot	...	1	—	Margarine	...	1	—	
Butter	...	1	—	Mustard	...	1	—	
Coffee	...	1	—	New Milk	...	13	1*	
Jam	...	1	—	Stuffing	...	1	—	
Lemon Curd	...	1	—	Vinegar	...	1	—	
TOTAL				...	...	22	1	

*The unsatisfactory sample of New Milk was certified to be 25·3% deficient in fat.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*

Samples of food and milk are sent to the Hampshire County Laboratory, Winchester, for examination.

(e) *Nutrition.*

All the schools in the area have available a satisfactory supply of pasteurised milk, produced by South Eastern Farmers, Ltd., Petersfield. Full use of this supply, at a reduced price for consumption by the scholars within the school premises, is made.

Section F.—The Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The year 1938 as a whole was a favourable one, only 7 cases of Scarlet Fever and 9 cases of Diphtheria being notified. These cases were spread evenly throughout the year and were not confined to any one part of the town. All patients were admitted to the local Fever Hospital and made good recoveries, except 1 case of Diphtheria—a boy of 15, who succumbed to the disease.

The Scarlet Fever incidence per 1,000 population in Petersfield	...	...	...	...	1.16
The Scarlet Fever incidence per 1,000 population in England and Wales	...	...	...	...	2.41
The Diphtheria incidence per 1,000 population in Petersfield	...	...	...	...	1.49
The Diphtheria incidence per 1,000 population in England and Wales	...	...	...	...	1.58

Diphtheria Immunisation work under the Council's scheme which was outlined in the 1937 Annual Report, proceeded steadily during the year. The local Practitioners deal with the pre-school population at their surgeries and the M.O.H. treats the school children on the school premises.

During the year 1938 protective treatment under the Council's scheme was given as follows :—

Number of pre-school children treated by private practitioners	...	...	...	...	32
Number of school children treated by myself as M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	29
TOTAL					61
					—
Number of children treated in 1937	...	...	...	...	58
Total (1936, 1937, and 1938)	...	...	...	...	572

It will be seen that the numbers of children protected at ages when this disease can be so dangerous, viz., during the child's pre-school life, are still small, and it would appear that the parents of such young and susceptible children should be even more strongly encouraged to present their children for protection.

There have been no alterations during the year in the Authority's scheme for the prevention, treatment and control of Infectious Diseases. The arrangements for disinfection, the examination of contrats, the provision of Anti-toxins, etc., remain the same as reported in the 1937 Annual Report.

Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	7	—
Diphtheria	9	9	1
Enteric Fever (including para-typhoid)	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	1	—
Pneumonia	1	1	5
Erysipelas	2	2	—
Anterior Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	22	20	6

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.											
	0—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	1	1	—	—
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action taken.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
15 ...	1	3			1	2		
25 ...	1	1				1		
35 ...	1							
45 ...					1			
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	3	4	—	—	2	3	—	—

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

The total number of cases of tuberculosis on the register on December 31st, 1938—22.

